

ing them. They kept fresh for half a year, enough to keep for one year, and being equal to eight or ten men's food, considered the fair quota for one person's dinner. The men, however, were not content with this, and as their vision is remarkably acute, it is by no means an easy matter to capture them, or to keep them in captivity. The American bird has many habits in common with the African. One of these is the habit of placing some of their party in ambush in the direction which he is likely to take. They then gallop full tilt to the point of flight, and either intercept the ostrich altogether, or "hobble" it with a pair of bolas.

CAPTURING THE BIG BIRDS.

The latter weapon is peculiarly Patagonian, and was in use nobody knows how many centuries before the coming of white men; yet nothing better has ever been devised for hunting the shy creatures of the plains, and the Spaniards and Guachos, away up in Chili and Argentine, have adopted its use. To make a pair of bolas, take two stones of unequal size, one about as large as a goose egg, the other as a hen's egg—and grind them perfectly smooth by rubbing one against the other. Cover each with a bit of muslin, and sew on each a cord, or a piece of rawhide, firmly sewed on, till it looks something like a cricket-ball. Then cut two stout thongs, each about four feet long, attach one end of each to a ball, and knot the other end of the thongs together, so that when the strings are cast, the balls will fly at least eight feet apart. That is all there is of it, and the bolas are then ready for use. But the most difficult part of the work is the movements to handle them, for dexterity comes only with long practice. Every Patagonian has his hand almost from the cradle for the purpose of playing with his childhood as the sling is of the Bolivian gambo, and to display skill in its management has been the chief aim of the young men, so that it is no wonder he becomes so proficient that he can project the balls an incredible distance, and with such accuracy that he can wind the thong around the legs of the unlucky object struck, whether man or beast, and force enough to throw himself in the mesh. The method of throwing an animal with the bolas has been thus graphically described:

The right hand is raised, and the bolas grasps the thong at its point of union, about half way between the ends. The balls are then whirled in a circular motion around the head, and when sufficient centrifugal power has been obtained the weapon is cast, and the balls fly out to be captured. The aim is a matter of nice calculation, in which mind, eye and arm all bear a part, and so true is the aim that the Patagonian practice of the hunter is to throw the bolas to bring down or otherwise cripple his game, be it ostrich, quail or guanaco. The ropes are of the finest flax, and it takes two or three days to grind a pair to the proper shape. In some districts the bolas is made of a third ball has been introduced, but the Indians do not regard this as an improvement. Wooded districts are avoided, and iron ore is used whenever they can be had, as the heavier they are the more execution they will do. A true Patagonian, on horseback, armed with a pair of bolas, is a formidable enemy, from which neither bird nor beast, within a radius of fifty yards, has the smallest chance of escape. Commander Munster, in his interesting book called "At Home with the Patagonians," says that as follows: The man who hails the ostrich leaves it for the other who has been chasing him to take charge of him until the end of the hunt. Then the feathers and body from the head to the breast-bone and one leg belong to the captor, the remainder to his assistant. The ostrich is then killed, and while stones are being heated, the wings are plucked, the legs are then laid on its back and drawn; the legs are carefully skinned, and the bones are then separated into halves, and the back-bone is taken from the lower half. The meat is sliced into thin strips, and the bones laid in between the sections, and then it is tied up like a bag, secured by the skin of the legs, and is carried to the place where it is to be cooked. The whole is placed on the live embers of the fire, and when it is nearly done, the ostrich is killed to perfectly roast the meat outside. During the process of cooking it has to be frequently turned, that all parts may be thoroughly baked. When taken from the fire, the top part is cut off and the bones removed, when broth and meat will be found delicious. The party gathered to eat the meat, first supping chunks of it in the broth. The back part, which, if the ostrich was in good condition, is almost solid fat, is then divided, tid-bits being given to each, not forgetting the waiting women and children. Then the breast and head part are to be cooked; the bones are not extracted, but the wings are turned inside out, the large cavity filled with breaded stones and then tied up in a bag, which is the largest enough to fit both hands, is carefully cooked by the insertion of a hot stone. The ostrich is then roasted and the tripe devoured; and the hungry dogs get the little that is left.

FANNIE B. WARD.

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS TREE.

Tradition of the Manner in Which the Young Fir Was Chosen for the Special Honor, Henry Van Dyke, in the Century.

"Hark! ye sons of the forest! No blood shall flow this night, and the fir which has been drawn from a mother's breast. For this is the birth-night of the white Christ, the son of the all-father, the savior of mankind. Fairer is he than Balder the true, greater than Odin the Wise, kinder than Freya the Good. Since he has come to earth, he is the light of the world, and whom ye have vainly called, he is dead. Deep in the shades of Nidhogg he is lost forever. And now, hark! ye sons of the forest, begin to live. This blood-tree shall darken your land no more. In the name of the Lord I will destroy it!"

He grasped the broad-axe from the hand of Gregor, and striking to the oak began to hew against it. Then the sole wonder in Waulfride's life came to pass. For the bright blade circled above his head, and the flakes of wood flew from the deepening gash in the body of the tree, as whirling wind passed over the forest. It gripped the oak from its foundations. Backward it fell like a tower growing in a whirlwind, and unharmed by the ruin, stood a young fir tree, pointing a green spear toward the stars.

Waulfride let the ax drop and turned to speak to the people.

"This little tree, a young child of the forest, shall be your holy tree to-night. It is the wood of peace, for your houses are built of the fir. It is the sign of life, for its leaves are ever green. See how it points upward to heaven. Let this be called the tree of life. And let us all, gathered about it, not in the wild wood, but in four own homes; there it will shelter no deeds of blood, but loving gifts and rites of kindness."

So they took the fir-tree from its place, and carried it in joyful procession to the edge of the glade, where it stood on a pedestal of stones. The horse tossed his head and drew bravely at his load, as if the new burden had lived with him, when they came to the village. Aloud bade them open the doors of his great hall and set the tree in the midst of it.

New Two-Dollar Silver Certificate.

A magnificent engraving and perfect likeness of Mr. Winchell, the front of the new two-dollar certificate. The printing on the certificate is more open than any other bills that have yet been issued by the government, and is more distinct on that account. There is more paper exposed to view. The silk markings of the new rate in two distinct lines across the bill, instead of lengthwise as formerly, and no matter in which way the bill is held, the new rate is a big figure two will stare the possessor in the face. The Bureau of Engraving and Printing seems to have taken the new method for preventing the ink from spreading on the paper. It looks as though the bills had been re-sized after printing, which would have had the effect, as well as to assist in the prevention of counterfeiting. The new certificate is a credit to the government in all respects.

Good Advice.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

The thing for good Republicans to do is to stand still and see the salvation of the Atlantic conference, and then, as with the two tremendous feet—so long as from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and as from the great lakes to the Gulf—to jump on the make it stay down.

FATE LAUGHED AT HIS FAITH.

Harrowing Tale of a Thrilling Border Life—Crime in the Gold-Fever Days.

An Eastern Youth Fell in with a Greaser and Sailor, Who Entrapped and Left Him to Die at the Bottom of a Colorado Shaft.

San Francisco Chronicle.

In the summer of 1890 three men penetrated that part of Colorado now known as Gunnison county. They were an American named Hall, a Cornish sailor named Goff, and a Spanish Indian, whose surname of Juarez was corrupted into "Horace" by his companions. They came from California, and were looking for gold in those days. The presence of all three was not suspected in that part of the Rockies, and the mines were all "placers." They were all three adventurers, and Goff and the Spaniard were, in addition to that, frontier desperadoes of the worst class. Hall was a young fellow from Pennsylvania. They had fallen together in a bar-hazard and started on their adventure upon fortune with a few weeks' rations packed on a "burro," their tools, arms and the clothes they stood in.

They found, eventually, a promising spot and went into camp. It was on the margin of a little stream, where the sand at first showed gold in the washing pans, but after a time the placer played out, and certain surface croppings prompted to a sink shaft. As they went down the shaft, they had encountered, a sort of rotten quartz, seemed continually on the point of giving richer, but continually failed to show any more than the first. The shaft was about a mile of fifty feet, worn out, discouraged, angry—in brief, ripe for trouble and death.

Old miners will never go into the mountains with a party of three. They know that it is impossible in such a group, and the present instance was a case in point. Hall had favored going on with the two desperadoes, and he was now to be abandoned, and reproached him with the failure. This led to hard words, quarrels and nights when a word was spoken at all. An older hand, a word was spoken at all. An older hand, a word was spoken at all. An older hand, a word was spoken at all.

One morning all three went to the shaft. Hall and Horace descended and Goff remained above to work the winches. They ascended and descended by means of a rope ladder, as one man's strength did not do for the three. The shaft was about a mile of fifty feet, worn out, discouraged, angry—in brief, ripe for trouble and death.

Left to die in a hole.

"Hello! above there!" he shouted. "Don't take that ladder out!"

By that time both ladder and bucket were clear of the shaft, and the flat sinister face of the Cornishman peered over the edge.

"Baw! away, lad!" he called tanningly; "Gee! in 'ee summit to baw! about!"

"God in heaven!" yelled the boy, "you ain't going to leave me here, are you?"

The Spaniard appeared at the verge with a chunk of rock in his hand. "But for you, boy," he said, "you love the bucket—good—you stay in him. Stop now, or I smother you dead!"

The Cornishman remonstrated. It was a bit of satanic cruelty more to his fancy to let the fellow stare there, and at last he came down and tried to climb. He knew that rescue by other miners was impossible, for they were the only white men in the district. Discovery of the mine was a contingency almost equally remote, and such a thing would mean nothing less than a stake. The index of the shaft was very dark, and the boy began to feel his way. It was a few hours he must begin to feel his way. It was a few hours he must begin to feel his way. It was a few hours he must begin to feel his way.

The situation was deadly in its very simplicity. The boy had no food, and his mind to die. Between his paroxysms of horror he gathered his senses and contented himself with thinking of his less plans. Only one did he attempt to put into execution; that was to cut steps in the hard rock, and to try to climb. He was caught, like a trapped rat, and turned the issue, however, he would, it took no other form than death. In fact, he was looking death right between the eyes. He was caught, like a trapped rat, and turned the issue, however, he would, it took no other form than death. In fact, he was looking death right between the eyes.

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